



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The microcontact structure according to Claim 5 wherein said reducing means is selected from the group consisting of folding, nesting and rolling.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, formed on at least one two-dimensional carrier wherein the carrier has at least two regions that are movable relative to one another, wherein said microcontact structure has a spatial extent and wherein said spatial extent is capable of being reduced by a reducing means prior to surgical transportation to an implant point, said reducing means comprising a compacting means for compacting the regions that are movable relative to one another; and wherein said spatial extent is capable of being restored by a releasing means;

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention; ~~and,~~

~~a releasing means wherein said compacting can be released by said releasing means after the surgical transportation.~~

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The microcontact structure according to Claim 5 wherein said compacting places the microcontact structure in a compact state, and said microcontact structure further comprises a locking means for locking said microcontact structure in the compact state.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 6 wherein said carrier comprises ~~further comprising~~ two contiguous regions; and at least one junction area between said contiguous regions and wherein said microcontact structure further comprises ~~a lock releasing means, said lock releasing means permitting releasing forces~~ an opening means at said at least one junction to thereby open the microcontact structure out of the compact state.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 7 wherein ~~the releasing forces are~~ said opening means is selected from the group consisting of spring forces, molecular conformation changes, pneumatic forces, hydraulic forces and electromagnetic forces.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, and

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention;

wherein the shape modifying means is utilized to attain a mechanical anchorage and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of the external action; ~~and,~~

~~wherein said shape modifying means is selected from the group consisting of a surgical device means and a transmitting means for transmitting signals to the microcontact structure.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired

positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, and

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention;

wherein said shape modifying means is utilized to improve an electrical contact or an active connection with nerve tissue and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of an external action; and,

~~wherein said shape modifying means is selected from the group consisting of a surgical device means and a transmitting means for transmitting signals to the microcontact structure.~~

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 11 wherein said shape modifying means comprises a means for responding to a signal transmitted to the microcontact structure, the signals ~~are~~ being selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 12 wherein said shape modifying means comprises a means for responding to a signal transmitted to the microcontact structure, the signals ~~are~~ being selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Method for using the microcontact structure according to claim 12 in a surgical procedure, said procedure selected from the group consisting of retinal implantation for a retina implant, intracranial implantation on nerve tissue inside the skull, spinal implantation on nerve tissue of the spinal cord and its surroundings, and implantation on peripheral nerves; said method comprising the step of surgically implanting said microcontact structure.